

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1775

Introduced by Assembly Member Lowenthal

January 24, 2000

An act to add Section 39611 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to air pollution.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1775, as introduced, Lowenthal. Petroleum coke dust.

Existing law requires the State Air Resources Board to monitor air pollutants in cooperation with the county air pollution districts, the air quality management districts, and other agencies in order to control air pollution.

This bill would require the state board, in consultation with the south coast district board, to review the policies of the state board and the south coast district that govern monitoring of petroleum coke stockpiles to ensure that those policies are effective in detecting unhealthy amounts of petroleum coke dust in the air. The bill would require the state board to require oil refiners and any other business or person who possess or handle petroleum coke stockpiles to cover or enclose those petroleum coke stockpiles at all times, including during transportation.

This bill would require the state board, in conjunction with specified entities, to conduct a study on the health risks associated with petroleum coke dust, as specified, and to submit that study to the Legislature.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of
2 the following:

3 (a) California law provides for the measurement of the
4 level of carcinogens in the air and water and requires that
5 notice be given to the public regarding the level of
6 various toxic pollutants in the air.

7 (b) Petroleum coke is a residue of the oil-refining
8 process that is exported widely to Asia as an alternative
9 energy source.

10 (c) Petroleum coke is a dangerous substance and dust
11 from the product stored in harbors may pose a serious
12 health and environmental risk. The dust produced by
13 petroleum coke is a known health hazard that spreads in
14 the wind.

15 (d) Samples of petroleum coke dust have turned up
16 high levels of the potentially carcinogenic chemicals
17 chrysene and vanadium.

18 (e) Studies have shown a link between elevated levels
19 of petroleum coke dust in the air and people with
20 respiratory illness. One recent study found that any
21 person working outdoors who is exposed to petroleum
22 coke dust may have a higher risk of developing cancer.

23 SEC. 2. Section 39611 is added to the Health and
24 Safety Code, to read:

25 39611. (a) The state board, in consultation with the
26 south coast district board, shall review the policies of the
27 state board and the south coast district that govern
28 monitoring of petroleum coke stockpiles to ensure that
29 those policies are effective in detecting unhealthy
30 amounts of petroleum coke dust in the air.

31 (b) Commencing January 1, 2001, the state board shall
32 require each oil refiner and any other business or person
33 who possess or handle a petroleum coke stockpile to cover
34 or enclose the stockpile at all times, including during
35 transportation.

36 (c) The state board, in conjunction with the Port of
37 Los Angeles, the Port of Long Beach, the City of Los
38 Angeles, and the City of Long Beach, shall conduct a

1 study on the health risks associated with petroleum coke
2 dust. The study shall also determine the frequency and
3 severity of violations of air pollution and water quality
4 laws and regulations resulting from petroleum coke dust
5 in the air and water. The state board shall submit the
6 study to the Legislature.

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